

### DETAILED ACTION

The following action is in response to the response filed July 20, 2008. Amended Claims 1, 4, and 7-9 are pending and have been considered below.

1. The prior art rejections have been withdrawn as necessitated by applicant's amendments.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang et al. (US 5,793,365) in view of Knox (US 7,076,533) and further in view of Vigue et al. (US 2004/0095378).

Claim 1: Tang discloses a system and method providing a local user with the identities of users with whom a selected remote user has been communicating, comprising:

- a. detecting selection of said selected remote user from within a buddy list of said local user in a computer system display (column 7, lines 29-40).

Tang discloses obtaining a plurality of user representations corresponding to respective one of a plurality of users with whom said selected remote user previously

communicated over a plurality of different communication applications, wherein said plurality of different communication applications include electronic meeting applications (video-conferencing) and internet phone (column 6, lines 45-50; column 8, lines 40-45). Specifically, Tang discloses displaying the names and images of the participants of a remote communication session. However, Tang does not explicitly disclose said plurality of different communication applications includes email. Knox discloses a similar method and system for providing information describing detected uses of communication software applications that further discloses reporting a user's previous email activity information and a user's internet application usage history (Figure 2). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide information describing the previous use of a plurality of different communication software applications including an electronic mail application in Tang because describing previous usage of software applications was recognized as part of the ordinary capabilities of one skilled in the art. Further, the Examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE that it is old and well known in the computer arts for an administrator to track the email activity of remote users using a log. It was also old and well known in the art at the time the invention was made to log the usage of internet phones. One would have been motivated to provide information describing the previous use of a plurality of communication software applications including an electronic mail application in order to determine the frequency a user accesses each of their communication applications.

Tang discloses presenting said plurality of user representations to said local user in said computer system display, wherein all of said plurality of user representations are

presented simultaneously in said computer system display (column 8, lines 40-45), but does not explicitly disclose that the plurality of user representations are presented in the order in which the user communicated with each user. Vigue discloses a similar method that further discloses a case create application that records facts and logs the activities of a worker/group/team on a customer account. The screen includes the name of the customer and workers that attended the scheduled events in chronological order. For instance, a customer call occurred on 5/04/00, and the attendees are listed in '1408'. The day before, 5/03/00, a meeting occurred and the attendees are also listed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to present the plurality of user representations in the order in which they communicated with each user in Tang. One would have been motivated to include this feature in order determine the history of the recent collaborative activities of a remote user.

Tang modified by Vigue further discloses wherein each of said plurality of user representations comprises a visual image (underlined name) of said corresponding one of said plurality of users with whom said selected remote user previously communicated (Vigue, Figure 14). Vigue discloses the names of whom a customer communicated with in a customer call or meeting. Therefore, it would have been obvious to present a visual image of said corresponding one of said plurality of users with whom said selected remote user previously communicated with in Tang. One would have been motivated to include this feature in order to identify the users whom a remote user recently communicated with across the communication applications.

Tang modified by Vigue discloses wherein each of said plurality of user representations has presented over it one of a plurality of graphical communication indications, wherein said one of said plurality of graphical communication application indications visually represents which of said plurality of different communication applications was used for communicating between said selected remote user and said respective one of said plurality of users with whom said selected remote user previously communicated (Vigue, Figure 14). Specifically, Vigue depicts an icon '1404' and '1406' over the names of the attendees of a customer call '1414'. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to present one of a plurality of graphical communication application indications over each of said plurality of user representations in Tang. One would have been motivated to include this feature in order to identify the type of activity a remote user engaged in with other users.

Claim 4: Tang, Knox, and Vigue disclose a system and method providing a computer user interface enabling access to distributed workgroup members as in Claim 1 above further comprising obtaining a second plurality of user representations, each corresponding to a respective one of a plurality of users with whom a local user recently communicated, and displaying the representations simultaneously (column 5, lines 13-43). Vigue discloses that the plurality of user representations are presented in the order in which the user communicated with each user (Figure 14). Therefore, it would have been obvious to present a visual image of said corresponding one of said plurality of users with whom said local user previously communicated with in Tang. One would

have been motivated to include this feature in order to identify the users whom a local user recently communicated with across the communication applications.

4. Claims 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tang et al. (US 5,793,365) in view of Knox et al. (US 7,076,533) and further in view of Vigue et al. (US 2004/0095378).

Claim 7: Tang, Knox, and Vigue disclose a system and method providing a computer user interface enabling access to distributed workgroup members as in Claim 1 above, but neither reference explicitly discloses presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to specify that information regarding communication activities of said local user that are to be shared with remote users. Godefroid discloses a similar system for presence awareness in collaborative systems that further discloses controlling remote user access to private data (column 6, lines 12-19). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to specify whether the communication activities of a local user are allowed to be accessed by remote users. One would have been motivated to restrict access to information regarding their collaborative activities for privacy purposes.

Claim 8: Tang, Knox, and Vigue disclose a system and method providing a computer interface enabling access to distributed workgroup members as in Claim 1 above and

Godefroid further discloses allowing or disallowing queries regarding the recent collaborative activities of the user (column 6, lines 12-19). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to specify which communication activities of a local user are allowed to be viewed by remote users. One would have been motivated to restrict access to information regarding their collaborative activities for privacy purposes.

Claim 9: Tang, Knox, and Vigue disclose a system and method providing a computer interface enabling access to distributed workgroup members as in Claim 1 above and Godefroid further discloses allowing or disallowing queries from specific users regarding the recent collaborative activities of the user (column 6, lines 12-19). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to specify which users may be presented information regarding the communication activities of a local user. One would have been motivated to specify which users can view information regarding their collaborative activities for privacy purposes.

### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 4, and 7-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **OMAR ABDUL-ALI** whose telephone number is (571)270-1694. The examiner can normally be reached on **Mon-Fri(Alternate Fridays Off) 8:30 - 6:00 EST**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Stephen Hong** can be reached on **571-272-4124**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

OAA  
10/14/2008

/Stephen S. Hong/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art  
Unit 2178